

Acton Commission on Disability

Annual Report 2008

**Advocating for the rights and needs of citizens with disabilities and their families**

- Met with transportation consultant for input on needs in planning Town transportation options, collaborated with TAC on grant application for voucher system
- Represented PWD (People with Disabilities) at Acton's Visioning project
- Monitored violations of Handicapped parking spaces at polls on Election Day.
- Assisted citizens when difficulties arose with LRTA Road Runner service.
- Responded to 40 calls from PWD in Acton needing assistance and support services. Overwhelmingly, these were calls dealing with transportation needs.
- Collaborated with the Council on Aging and the Town Nurses on specific needs of individuals in Acton.
- With the Recreation Department, investigated the details of Universal playground design.

- Weighed in on design planning of new Senior Center.
- Worked with the Acton Health Department on inclusion of needs in preparing the Town Emergency plans. Published a pamphlet on “Personal Emergency Preparedness Plan” for PWD
- Published an updated “Guide to Accessible Dining in Acton”
- Reviewed the Town’s disability indicator system

**Providing resources for education around the needs of PWD and their families**

- At their request, made a presentation to Lion’s Club
- Worked with the Elementary school curriculum department to create and use a puppet troupe to present the “Kids On the Block” trainings around PWD
- Our annual game at the Oktoberfest revealed once again that the children and youth of Acton are knowledgeable and empathic about the culture of PWD. Many credit this to having attended the integrated pre-school. Our table

proved a good place to initiate discussions with their less informed elders.

- Publicly distributed copies of information on the Disabled Persons Protection Commission and their abuse report hotline.

**Ensure that Acton meets the laws, regulations, and guidelines set down by federal, state and local governments**

- Reviewed plans for election day parking arrangements
- Initiated a renewed search for the Town's ADA Transition Plan
- Weighed in on variance applications to the AAB( Architectural Access Board)
- Assisted the Building Department in achieving AAB compliance with local businesses.
- Attended regional meetings, and maintained communication with the Mass. Office on Disability